

Series I
Correspondence,
1932-1973

Box 9, Folder 14

Letters regarding
Bates project,
1958-1968

0958

THE YALE EDITION OF HORACE WALPOLE'S CORRESPONDENCE

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THE EARL WALDEGRAVE
Chepton Mendip, Bath.

THORNTON WILDER, LITT.D., LL.D.
New Haven, Conn.

FARMINGTON, CONNECTICUT

31st May 1958

Dear Senator Knowland,

I am writing to you on a matter that deeply concerns a fellow-Alamedan, Rear Admiral Richard W. Bates, USN (Rtd), who for the past nine years has been preparing the critical analyses of the major naval battles of World War II at the Naval War College in Newport. His work, which is classified, has had the highest praise from Professor Samuel Morison of Harvard, the eminent historian and author of the Navy's published history of the war.. You will find the details of Admiral Bates's career in Who's Who.

His present work is being stopped as an economy measure. This economy will cost the country the services of a first-class historian who has proved his ability to write analyses of lasting usefulness to naval commanders. All the money in the world will not be able to buy as good a job as he is doing in a few years time.

If one believes in the value of history this matter is of concern to the country as well as to Admiral Bates. We hear a great deal of talk today about 'Education' by people who have very hazy ideas of what they mean by it. The people who have decided to stop Admiral Bates's work are among them.

Yours sincerely,



Wilmarth S. Lewis, formerly of
1625 Central Ave., Alameda, California

The Hon William F. Knowland,
Tribune Bldg,
Oakland, Calif.

0959

50 SOUTH MAIN STREET

January 17, 1961

Dr. Henry M. Wriston,
9 East 68th Street,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Henry:

It seems a long time that we have not communicated with each other and even longer that I have not had the pleasure of sitting down and talking with you. I do wish we could meet soon because I really miss you.

I am writing in this case because I am concerned that my friend, Rear Admiral Richard W. Bates, USN (ret.) of Newport is not able to finish what is conceivably a really valuable history of the Naval operations in the Pacific.

You may remember that under Forrestal's regime there was established at the War College in Newport a battle evaluation group. This group, which consisted of some four officers and the necessary stenographic assistants, made the most searching and careful analysis of all despatches and all information connected with the Naval operations in the Pacific. The results are still classified Confidential but are said to be extraordinarily penetrating and illuminating analyses of what actually happened and, therefore, should prove in the future very useful historic documents as well as guideposts to the training of Naval Officers.

I understand the original plan was for seven volumes, of which five have been completed. Work on the other two was in process when the Navy Department suddenly cut off funds and dissolved the group, thus retiring Admiral Bates from active duty.

Admiral Bates has asked me whether money could be procured from a Foundation for the re-activation of the project. While I am doubtful, I nevertheless think that it is of great importance that every effort should be made to have the work completed. I should greatly appreciate your guidance in this matter and, if Admiral Bates tries to make an appointment with you, I hope you will be able to see him. I am sending him a copy of this letter.

With warmest regards to you and Peg, in which Anne joins, I am as always,

Yours devotedly,

JOHN NICHOLAS BROWN

0960



from S. E. MORRISON
REAR ADMIRAL USNR (RET.)

Harvard College Library, 417
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

44 Brimmer Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108
10 June 1968

Dear Jocko:

I have not changed my views about Admiral Halsey, but I hate to rub them in because he was such a great leader and a great guy generally.

In a few words, I think he made three serious errors in the war -- the two hurricanes and the Battle for Leyte Gulf. When writing my volume on Leyte, I examined the dispatches carefully and concluded that he had plenty of evidence of the Japanese turning eastward again in the Strait, but was so eager to get at those carriers up north that he chose to disregard the evidence and falsely to assume that the Japanese Center Force had been so reduced by air attacks as to be no menace to Zinkaid. But for the bravery of the Navy flattop aviators and the gumption of Ziggy Sprague, there would have been a Roman holiday in Leyte Gulf that day.

I don't understand Admiral Hayward's crack at Rafe Bates and Oldendorf. Oley took up the very best position tactically for the battle, and heavy cruisers to stop the Japanese Southern Force. Perhaps he means that Oley wanted to pursue the remains of that force down the Strait and that Rafe dissuaded him. If so, Rafe was correct, because until the Battle off Samar was decided, it seemed that Oley's force would have to pile in and protect the transports in Leyte Gulf.

So you may quote me as supporting your stand in Carrier Admiral, if you wish.

Sincerely yours,

S. E. Morrison

Admiral Joseph J. Clark USN
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, N. Y. 10020



from S. E. MORRISON
REAR ADMIRAL USNR (Ret.)

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